

# ANGRY BOYS

june 11<sup>th</sup> – august 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

The international group exhibition "**ANGRY BOYS**" is dedicated to male artists who deal with classical art forms such as paintings, sculptures, drawings and paper works. Among the 15 gentlemen are the german artists **Jonathan Meese, Oliver Czarnetta, Philip Grözinger, Bernd Hoffmann** and **Timo Behn**. **Daniele Galliano, Paolo Dolzan, Michele Bubacco, Giuliano Sale** and **Paolo Maggis** represent Italy. **Manu Baeyens** and **Wouter van Riessen** both are from the Netherlands, **Tom Duimstra** works and lives in the USA, whereas **George Raftopoulos** and **Jordy Kerwick** are well known australian painters. The group show deals with the role male artists have. They are constantly aware of the big history of art which lies behind of them and sometimes heavily upon them like a burden. Also the public eye and the so-called art world have „great expectations“ concerning their work and their personal appearance. Facing the fact that centuries ago and lately in the Twentieth Century mostly everything had been created, sculptured, painted, sketched, modified, refused and discussed, it seems to be difficult to find one`s own artistic path to walk along. Often the inner and outer expectations of how a male artist has to express himself artistically and how he has to „perform“ in public, have a great impact on the artist himself. So the machismo which is a widespread phenomenon also in the art world, for male artists seems to be nothing but a burden. Machism is considered also like a form of consolidated force which keeps together a peer group can otherwise be an obstacle and comes back like a boomerang. It rests above the creative process like a big shadow. As a consequence an artist might be forced to follow an artistic direction or performance which is diametrical to his inner beliefs and to his self- concept. For an artist there are a lot of reasons to be angry, for example that the public expects them to be absolutely modern, wild and manly. Whatever that means. Egon Schiele once said that art never can be modern. Instead art is eternally primordial. Today attributes like “modern” or “contemporary” belong to a marketing vision of an artist who has to be independent with his work, but at the same time sexy and accommodating within his art and within his personality. But anger also is able to generate a lot of energy with which one can also oppose to certain role expectations. This is why a male artist never should tend to „look back in anger“, like it sounds in the title of John Osborne`s play. Within the group exhibition "**ANGRY BOYS**" the 15 male artists do what they want to, they are angry maybe sometimes, but happy and spend time together throughout the interaction of their creations.

Claudia Cosmo, curator/gallerist

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